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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): René PAQUET et al
Atty. Docket No.: 2993-469US RM/JR/as
Serial No.: 10/681,341
Filed: October 9, 2003
Title: SHROUDED TURBINE BLADES WITH LOCALLY INCREASED
CONTACT FACES

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97**

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on a PTO/SB/08A/B form is a listing of the documents known to applicant in order to comply with applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

The submission of any document which is not a statutory bar is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a prima facie prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

Statement of Relevancy


In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(3)(1) a concise explanation of the relevance of French Patent No.1,252,763 is enclosed herein as this listed reference is not in the English language. Particularly as noted in paragraph [0004] of the present application, FR 1,252,763 discloses, in one embodiment, a non-annular turbine blade shroud arrangement in which the mid-span shrouds extend acutely (i.e. not generally perpendicularly) from the blades, as seen in figure 2 thereof. The applicant believes that this concise explanation fulfills the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(3)(1) as outlined in MPEP section 609 A(3).

The listed documents are being submitted either in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the filing date of a national application or of the date of entry of the national stage in an international application; or pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1), within three (3) months from the date of an office action or of a search report issued in a foreign counterpart application citing each of the documents contained in the present statement; or pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97 (e)(2), within three (3) months from the first knowledge of each submitted document by any individual designated in C.F.R. §1.56 (c), when each such document was not cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application.

In the case of submissions under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1) and (2), the undersigned Attorney/Agent of Record hereby certifies that the enclosed references are hereby submitted within three months (1) from the issuance of the foreign action or search report, or (2) from said first knowledge, respectively.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 9, 2004


Kevin P. Murphy
Registration No. 26,674
OGILVY RENAULT
1981 McGill College Avenue #1600
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 2Y3
Tel.: (514) 845-7126

Encs. - Form PTO/SB/08A/B + copy of 1 reference

PTO/SB/08A/B (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0851-0031

Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet **1** of **1** Attorney Docket Number **2993-469US RM/JR/as****Complete if Known**

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Application Number | 10/681,341 |
| Filing Date | October 9, 2003 |
| First Named Inventor | PAQUET, René et al |
| Art Unit | |
| Examiner Name | |

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number Number - Kind Code ² (if known) | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
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| Examiner Signature | Date Considered |
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

(SOR.PAT.FORM 107 - 10/2001)